

MINDORO

Biodiversity

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.



April to June 2021

IN THIS EDITION

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 02

MBCFI WAY

Search for Ilin Cloud Rat 03

Biodiversity Without Borders
Webinar 04

Virtual Exhibit
"Colors of Biodiversity" 04

MBCC Construction Updates 05

SPECIES IN FOCUS

Mindoro Stripe-faced Fruit Bat 06

Answer to Q1 Newsletter Puzzle 06

VIRTUAL TOUR

Mount Siburan 07

WILDLIFE ART

Featuring Mindoro Artists 08

Program Highlights



RESEARCH

- Lead the camera trap setup and data collection activities for the purposive search for Ilin Cloud Rat, in coordination with IAMBAG
- Conducted the validation activity for the socio-economic survey results in Dulangan, Puerto Galera and prepared the corresponding report
- Provided technical assistance to CENRO San Jose in the survey of a bat roosting site in May
- Prepared and finalized the SEED Report for publication



Survey activity for the Ilin cloudrat



CARE

- Virtually released the 2020 MBCFI Annual Report
- Selected as beneficiary by UPLB Zoological Society for their donation drive, "Isang Yapak para sa Kinabukasan ng Lahat: Solidarity for Biodiversity"
- Conducted the webinar, "Biodiversity without Borders," as part of the celebration of International Day of Biological Diversity
- Launched the virtual exhibit, "Colors of Biodiversity" together with the MBCC Museum, which features homegrown Mindoro artists (see full feature on pp. 4 and 8)
- Participated as Guest Speaker for "The Splendor of Philippine Biodiversity," a webinar event hosted by Manila House Inc.

MISSION

- Conducted fenceline and vermicomposting maintenance activities in Mt. Malasimbo, Dulangan, Puerto Galera
- Lead the monthly meeting of MaSIPag members and facilitated the preparation of their Article of Incorporation and by-laws
- Conducted various surveillance and monitoring activities as part of foot patrolling in Mt. Halcon community sites



Photo by Jvaldez

The MBCFI Way

Purposive Search for Ilin Cloud Rat



Photo by EHTan

The continuation for the purposive search of the endemic Ilin Island Cloudrunner or evidence of its current presence on Ilin and Ambulong Islands was conducted last April. Surveys for the dry or fruiting season were conducted in Barangays Pawican, Buri, and Ipil.

Both Buri and Pawican were previously surveyed in 2020; however, based on the 2020 key informant interview (KII) results, the site in Barangay Pawican was transferred to a different sitio. Barangay Ipil was also selected for this season based on the 2020 KII results. Due to the imposed COVID-19 lockdown then by the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU), Barangay Ansiray was not surveyed.

A total of 35 respondents were previously interviewed, representing eight barangays in Ilin Island in the 2020 survey. It was initially planned to conduct the key informant interviews in all 11 barangays,

but three barangays were not visited due to the strict implementation of Covid-19 protocols.

The survey was conducted within the secondary forest patches of Pawican (116 masl), Ipil (47 masl), and Buri (118 masl). Certain habitat features and the surrounding fruiting trees were considered in selecting the survey area points.

The KII results generally shows that the Ilin Cloudrunner is not anymore present in the islands. The local ecological knowledge of the community is also not that high, denoting that the species has been a long time ago not present in the area or has not been seen by the community members.

Despite using different methods such as transect walks, cage traps, and camera traps, the team was not able to observe

any signs of the Ilin Cloudrunner, including feces or tracks. Based on the current result of the survey, the survey team cannot yet fully conclude that the Ilin Cloudrunner is extirpated in the island since other areas were not fully searched due to the current health protocols.

Furthermore, it is observed that there are more species and individuals observed during the dry season compared to the wet season since it is also the fruiting season of many trees on the island, which could provide food sources for many species.

The survey team recommends conducting an initial key informant interview in mainland Mindoro. Likewise, a purposive search in the mainland, more specifically in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park and during the fruiting season, can be highly considered.



Photo by KLCielo



Photo by KLCielo



Photo by KLCielo

The MBCFI Way

“Biodiversity without Borders” Webinar



In celebration of the Month of the Ocean and International Day for Biological Diversity, MBCFI conducted a webinar entitled, “Biodiversity Without Borders,” via Facebook livestream on May 22, 2021. This webinar featured next-generation and multifaceted resource speakers who shared their stories and experiences about their encounters with Philippine biodiversity, particularly in the Mindoro, both terrestrial and marine.

Our very own RESEARCH Program Manager, Ms. Kyle Cielo, discussed the topic, “Biological Treasure Trove: New Species Records in Mindoro.” Ms. Gen Abanilla, Pinay Freediver, talked about the theme “Beneath the Surface: Freediver Perceptions on Philippine Coral Reefs.” Lastly, Mr. Gab Mejia, captured how conservation and photography come together in his talk, “Behind the Lens: Stories on Documenting Philippine Wildlife and Nature.”

The webinar garnered more than 1,000 views, with 589 reaction from the audience. Most of the viewers who answered the post-event survey said that they enjoyed the webinar and the talks from the speakers.

With the success of this webinar, MBCFI is looking forward to conducting many more virtual events and engagements in the future.

Biodiversity without Borders

A WEBINAR EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF THE MONTH OF THE OCEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SATURDAY, MAY 22
1:00 - 3:30 PM

Via Zoom
with livestream at
fb.com/MindoroBiodiversity

Register at: <https://bit.ly/33lcHqo>

Hosted by:
 Alon Velasquez

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Kyle Cielo**
RESEARCH Program Manager
MBCFI
- Gen Abanilla**
Pinay Freediver
- Gab Mejia**
National Geographic Explorer
and Nikon Asia Ambassador

MBCFI
Mindoro Biodiversity

22 MAY 2021
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY DAY

“Colors of Biodiversity” Virtual Exhibit

MBCFI
Mindoro Biodiversity

VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

Colors of Biodiversity

@colorsofbiodiversity
 /ColorsofBiodiversity

SATURDAY, MAY 22

As part of the events for the International Biodiversity Day, a virtual painting exhibit was launched with the theme: “Colors of Biodiversity,” featuring selected Mindoro visual artists. This exhibit aimed to raise public awareness on the Philippines’ rich yet threatened biodiversity through the eyes of local Mindoro artists and friends who support the cause.

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the artworks are to be donated to the Mindoro Biodiversity Center (MBCC), a nature center that will soon rise at Barangay Dulangan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. The funds that will be raised will be used for the development of its natural history museum, through MBCFI. The exhibit will be supposed to run for a month since the launch but the artists and the Museum Curator of MBCFI have decided to continue this online gallery.

To know more about the featured artists and their wildlife art pieces, check out the Wildlife Art section (p. 8) of this newsletter. You can also check out the virtual exhibit through its Facebook page (fb.com/ColorsofBiodiversity) and Instagram account ([@colorsofbiodiversity](https://www.instagram.com/colorsofbiodiversity)).

The MBCFI Way

MBCC Construction Updates

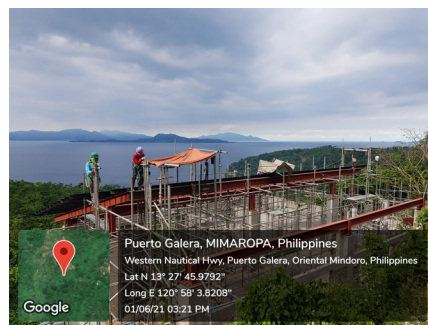


By the last week of June 2021, the actual construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC is 45.72%. In addition, the utility building and supplies are already operational. However, minor changes were decided on regarding the ongoing construction of the retaining wall between buildings 1 and 2. With these considerations, the Construction Plan was reviewed and updated to the project's nearest possible time of completion.

Operationalization procedures have also been drafted and presented for the following anticipated processes of MBCC: Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE), RESEARCH, MISSION, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communications and Finance.

Moreover, coordination for the museum collection loans and planning for the graphics design of the museum contents have been initiated and are well underway.

Daily and weekly HSSE inspections have been conducted. Likewise health and safety protocols in relation to COVID-19 are also continuously being enforced and implemented onsite.



YOU CAN SUPPORT MBCC BY DONATING.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://mbcfi.org.ph>



Onsite photos by Arch. RMagcale

Species in Focus

Mindoro Stripe-faced Fruit Bat



Photo by DGTaboranza

COMMON NAME:
Mindoro Stripe-faced
Fruit Bat

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Styloctenium mindorensis

CONSERVATION STATUS:
Endangered (IUCN, 2019)

Styloctenium mindorensis is a Mindoro Island endemic and is only known from a total of five localities on western side of Mindoro Island and on Ilin and Ambulong Islands. Additional information is needed to refine the understanding of the species distribution across Mindoro. It is less widespread and abundant compared to *Desmalopex microleucopterus*, another Mindoro endemic Pteropodidae.

Ecology: There is limited information on the ecology and habitat requirements for *S. mindorensis*. The species was initially described from Mt. Siburan where it was captured at the edge of selectively logged lowland forest and an open field with scattered guava trees. Since then, it has been captured in lowland forests with varying levels of disturbance.

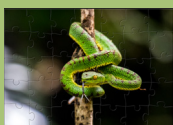
Threats and Recommended Conservation Actions: The species is only known from four areas on Mindoro Island and is threatened by local

subsistence hunting for food, habitat loss and degradation. Further work is needed to determine the distribution, abundance, ecological requirements, threats and conservation needs of this species.



Photo by GJakovalem

Q1 NEWSLETTER PUZZLE ANSWER:



Philippine Pit Viper

Virtual Tour

Mount Siburan



Photo by DGTabaranza

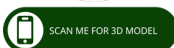


Where in Mindoro
Sablayan (Occidental Mindoro)



Featured Place in Figures
Altitude 50-400 masl
9,800 hectares (estimate)

Scan this QR Code
or click [here](#) to
view a 3D model of
Mt. Siburan



The largest remaining intact lowland forest in Mindoro

Mt. Siburan lies within the barangays Batongbuhay, Ligaya, Malisbong and Burgos in Sablayan and is completely within the boundaries of the SPPF. It is also within the boundaries of the F.B. Harrison Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary.

The land area of Mt. Siburan is estimated at 9,800 hectares, 57% of which is forested. extending to the southern portions of Sitios Aruyan, Busgsuron, and Malate. Although its lowland forest vegetation has been disturbed, it is still generally healthy and intact with trees of up to 25 meters in height. Large limestone outcrops are also present in the area.

The terrain of Mt. Siburan is divided into the rugged uplands and vast flat lowland areas where intricate river networks and drainage patterns criss-cross one another.

Water from Mt. Siburan (Mompong River to the north, Kinarawon River to the east, Libuao Lake to the west, and Pasugui to the south) is also used for agricultural, drinking and household needs of Siburan subprison.

In the barangays around Mt. Siburan and its surrounding forests, the Mangyans belong to one of two sub-tribes: the Mangyan-Alangans or the Tau-buid (Batangans). They are mostly scattered in small settlement-clusters or in the only Mangyan resettlement area in Sitio Culasisi.

It is home to at least 11 threatened endemic species of fauna, including the Mindoro Bleeding-heart. The Aruyan-malati, which is part of Mt. Siburan, is proposed as a critical habitat of the Tamaraw.

Mt. Siburan is the most imposing backdrop of the scenic Libuao lake.



Photo by DGTabaranza

Wildlife Art

Mindoro Artists on Spotlight



FEATURED ARTWORKS



Nestor D. Abayon, Jr.

Nestor D. Abayon, Jr. is a self-taught artist who was into sports in his primary years but later learned that he had an eye and a heart for the field of visual arts. While studying Marine Engineering, he continued his passion and became a freelance portraiture artist, tattoo artist and muralist. Through his craft, he was able to attract celebrities and clients in the country and abroad. He is now the lead artist of Mindoro Visual Artists. Through his artwork, he believes that he is connecting with everyone's hearts while fulfilling his dream of becoming a successful artist. Pursuing his career, he loves joining art exhibits and contests.



"THE FLYING FOX"

24x24 inches
Oil on canvas



"ORO"

18x24 inches
Oil on canvas

FEATURED ARTWORKS

"TAMA"
24x24 inches
Acrylic on canvas



"RACKET-TAIL"
24x24 inches
Oil on canvas



Arvin Jay C. Caspe

Arvin Jay C. Caspe is 21 years old and a resident of Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. He grew up with no passion for painting or drawing. In 2020, Arvin joined an art workshop facilitated by his mentor and fellow artist, Nestor C. Abayon, Jr. He gradually learned various techniques and continues to hone his talent in drawing and painting. His newly-discovered passion for creating works of art has also enabled him to earn for his family.

Wildlife Art

Featuring Mindoro Artists



Jerome D. Caspe

Jerome D. Caspe is a 21-year old resident of Barangay Salvacion, in Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. Due to the lockdown brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Jerome discovered his passion for drawing and painting. With the help of his mentor and fellow artist, Nestor C. Abayon, Jr., he continues to improve his craft and pursue his dreams of becoming a successful artist.

FEATURED ARTWORKS



"TREASURED ISLAND"

8x18 inches
Oil on canvas



"KALI"

18x24 inches
Acrylic on canvas

FEATURED ARTWORKS

"FEELS LIKE HOME 1"

24x18 inches
Acrylic on canvas



"FEELS LIKE HOME 2"

24x18 inches
Acrylic on canvas



Ralph John F. Fatallo

Ralph John F. Fatallo was born in Caloocan City but his family are originally from Romblon. He lived in Marinduque for almost seven years before moving to Mindoro. Art became his vehicle to express himself and gave him the confidence to face reality. He believes that Art comes from our inner self, a reflection of our inspiration, and a medium for self-discovery.

Awards:

2011, Vision Petron Competition
Semi-Finalist, T-shirt graphic design competition

2011, 4th Cocolife Student Art Competition
Semi-Finalist

Wildlife Art

Featuring Mindoro Artists



Ma. Luisa Lladones

Ma. Luisa Lladones is a graduate of the College of the Holy Spirit in Manila with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree major in Advertising. She worked in an advertising agency in Ortigas for 15 years and currently based in Puerto Galera.

"Art is not just a passion for me, but it is the unlimited source of physical and mental positivity." – Ma. Luisa Lladones

FEATURED ARTWORKS



"BULBUL BIRD"

24x18 inches
Acrylic on canvas



"IMPERIAL PIGEON"

12x12 inches
Acrylic on canvas

FEATURED ARTWORKS

"IDYLL"

12x18 inches
Acrylic on canvas



"NOSTALGIA"

12x16 inches
Acrylic on canvas



Anna Lumpas

Anna Lumpas is a self-taught artist, started painting at a young age. She was influenced by the beauty of her hometown in Mindoro and the artists around her. Much inspiration and passion fueled her art as she admires the simple life in Puerto Galera, the warm sand, the blue sea, the kaleidoscope colored sky and everything in between.

Her art is her life as she paints her own experiences, hopes, dreams and frustrations. The reality of her true self is realized as she paints the colors of her life. She continues to weave beautiful stories as she creates masterpieces while observing the wonders around her. She sees her own life as a never-ending masterpiece.

Wildlife Art

Featuring Mindoro Artists



Chressa Yee L. Rufon

Chressa Yee Rufon is a young and promising artist from Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. At her young age, she has already joined several exhibitions, such as:

- 2017
 - Obra Filipinismo 5 Art Exhibit, Art Asia Gallery, SM Megamall
 - Pintahusay, Festival of Talents, Camarines Sur, Bicol
- 2018
 - GLIMPSE Art Exhibit, Got Heart Gallery, White Plains, Quezon City
- 2019
 - MERGE Art Exhibit, Room Gallery, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
 - SINING PUERTO Art Exhibit, Gateway Gallery, Araneta City, Cubao
- 2020
 - REDISCOVER (artworks in red), Online Art Exhibit, Art Show Philippines
 - CUADRADO (art in square) Online Art Exhibit, Art Show Philippines
 - STILL LIFE Online Art Exhibit, Art Show Philippines

FEATURED ARTWORKS



"SEA TURTLE"

18x24 inches
Acrylic on canvas



"LIONFISH"

10x8 inches
Acrylic on wood

FEATURED ARTWORKS

"MARINE FOREST"

16x12 inches
Acrylic on wood



"MARINE FOREST 2"

16x20 inches
Acrylic on canvas



Wilfredo L. Rufon

Wilfredo L. Rufon is one of the local visual artists based in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. He had his first solo exhibit in 2018 called "Paraiso" Seeing the World through God's eyes at the ARTASIA GALLERY AT SM Megamall. He has joined various art exhibitions and has won several awards and recognitions since 1999. Below are some of Rufon's outstanding achievements:

- 2017 - OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD Belison National School, Belison Antique
- 2017 - JUROR'S CHOICE Si Rival sa Isip ng Mag-ina, Larawan ng Pagmamahal sa Bayan National Park Development Committee, Museum and Archive Gallery
- 2017 - WINNER Art of Kindness WWF (World Wide Fund) Solaire Artway
- 2015 - 2nd PLACE "Araw-araw Pasko sa Pilipinas" Kunst-Alveo National Painting Contest
- 2015 - 2nd PLACE Quo Vadis Overseas Filipinos Painting Contest Kunst Painting Contest
- 2001 - 2nd Place ArtPETRON Student Painting Contest
- 1999 - HONORABLE MENTION (SCULPTURE) SHELL Student Art Contest

Wildlife Art

Featuring Mindoro Artists



Bernadette Solina Wolf

Bernadette Solina Wolf is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts (UPCFA) Bachelor in Visual Communications.

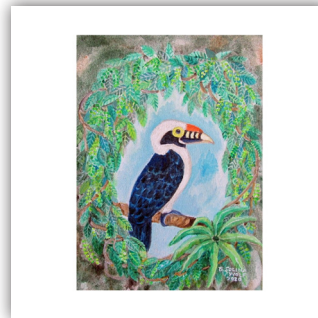
She is also a founding member of the Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK), an organization of artists passionate about illustrating and creating children's books. She has illustrated about 20 children's books herself.

She has also taught at the Phil. Highschool for the Arts (Makiling) as a Visual Arts Instructor for 5 years.

Now, married to Michael Wolf, most of her artworks have found a new genre –painting on coconut shells which they brand as Nutart. These art artworks have been exhibited by the National Historical Commission in their heritage museums. Its latest exhibit was in the newly opened Binondo Museum in Chinatown.

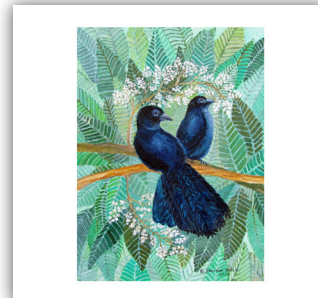
Painting on canvas is not often done by Bernadette so with this opportunity of creating artworks on canvas for the "Colors of Biodiversity" online exhibit, she finds it quite an exciting change of medium to present the Philippine Biodiversity in her own artistic style.

FEATURED ARTWORKS



"MINDORO TARICTIC HORNBILL"

12x16 inches
Acrylic on canvas



"MINDORO BLACK-HEADED COUCALS"

12x16 inches
Acrylic on canvas



 @colorsofbiodiversity

 /ColorsofBiodiversity



OUR VISION

Sustained conservation of Mindoro's natural treasures for future generations.

OUR MISSION

To lead scientific research and catalyze collaborative and participative conservation efforts in key biodiversity areas of Mindoro resulting in empowerment of Mindoreños through increased awareness and care.

Advisor

Grace Diamante

Editor-in-Chief

CJ Bantiling

Contributors

Kyle Cielo
Grace Diamante
Desiree Gestada
Jaydee Naungayan
Elyza Tan

Layout

CJ Bantiling

Photo Credits

Kyle Cielo
Elyza Tan
Don Geoff Tabaranza
Juan Valdez
Rainer Magcale

Connect with Us



356 Gozar Street, Brgy. Camilmil, Calapan City 5200
Oriental Mindoro, Philippines



+63 (43) 441-0359



www.mbcfi.org.ph



fb.com/MindoroBiodiversity



[@mindorobiodiversity](https://www.instagram.com/mindorobiodiversity)

MBCFI

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

Mindoro Biodiversity

